

REMARKS

The examiner had requested information under 37 CFR 1.105. I believe that the applicable section is 37 CFR 1.105 (a)(1)(vi) which is reproduced below.

§ 1.105 Requirements for information. (a)(1) In the course of examining or treating a matter in a pending or abandoned application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111 or 371 (including a reissue application), in a patent, or in a reexamination proceeding, the examiner or other Office employee may require the submission, from individuals identified under § 1.56(c), or any assignee, of such information as may be reasonably necessary to properly examine or treat the matter, for example:
(vi) *Improvements*: Where the claimed invention is an improvement, identification of what is being improved.

A typical billing system that is being improved is described in US patents 5,793,553 and 6,052,447. In addition another document that describes a billing system was filed in an IDS to the parent for the current application. The document filed in the IDS was entitled "U.S. Sprint Technical Report, produced by Technical Communications & References, US Sprint Communications Company Limited Partnership (June 1990)". The parent has issued as patent number 6,226,401. Unfortunately our firm did not file the parent case and our file does not have a copy of the above referenced document. The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner pull the PTO file for the parent case (application number 154962) to retrieve this document. It is believed that the above referenced documents fulfill the request for information made by the examiner.

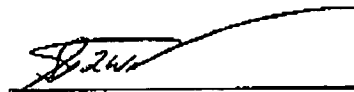
Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, the Applicants submit that claims 1 - 16 are allowable. There may be additional reasons in support of patentability, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of brevity. The Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1 - 16.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

12/15/04



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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